UNITED NATIONS
CENTRE AGAINST APARTHEID

No. 11/12 November/December 1990

NEWS DIGEST*

I. ACTION BY UNITED NATIONS ORGANS AND AGENCIES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID CALLS ON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO REAFFIRM ITS COMMITMENT TO THE PRINCIPLES SET IN THE DECEMBER 1989 CONSENSUS DECLARATION ON APARTHEID

In its annual report (Document A/45/22) to the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly, the Special Committee against Apartheid, while noting that the process of change had been set in motion in South Africa, pointed out that continued efforts were necessary to ensure the total eradication of apartheid.

Stating that the international community's consensus expressed in the December 1989 Declaration had become the yardstick against which the actions of the South African authorities and the members of the international community were being assessed, the Special Committee noted that the South African authorities had not fully met the five steps outlined in the Declaration that Pretoria should undertake to create the necessary climate conducive to peaceful negotiations.

Under these circumstances, and taking into account the fact that substantive negotiations had not yet started, the Special Committee expressed the need for the international community to maintain its vigilance and its pressure against South Africa. In particular it emphasized the need for the international community to adhere strictly to the Programme of Action outlined in the Declaration, as well as the importance of maintaining the spirit of international consensus prevailing since the December 1989 Declaration.

In this connection, the Special Committee recommended to the General Assembly that

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it inter-alia: reaffirm the principles, guidelines and Programme of Action contained in the Declaration; call upon the South African regime to undertake all necessary measures, including the implementation of the Pretoria Minute of 6 August 1990, the repeal of all repressive legislation and removal of the pillars of apartheid, to create a climate fully conducive to negotiations; reaffirm its full support for the current process towards negotiations in which the South African authorities and African National Congress are engaged; call for an immediate end to violence and urge the South African authorities to take action to end it, as well as call upon all parties concerned to contribute to the promotion and establishment of a climate free of violence.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY SPEAKERS CONCUR THAT REFORMS IN SOUTH AFRICA WERE NOT SUFFICIENT TO WARRANT END TO INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE

Speaking during a three-day (4-6 December 1990) debate of the General Assembly on the question of apartheid, most speakers concurred with the conclusion of the Special Committee against Apartheid that the reforms that had taken place so far in South Africa were not sufficient to warrant the relaxation of international pressure against South Africa.

The Assembly had before it the report of the Special Committee against Apartheid (Doc. A/45/22); the report of the Intergovernmental Group to Monitor the Supply and Shipping of Oil and Petroleum Products to South Africa (Doc. A/45/43); the report of the Commission against Apartheid in Sports (Doc. A/45/45); four reports by the Secretary-General, namely; International Financial Pressure on the Apartheid Economy of South Africa (Doc. A/45/539); Measures to Monitor Sanctions against South Africa undertaken by the United Nation System, Governments and Non-Governmental Agencies (Doc. A/45/570). The United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa (Doc. A/45/550); A Study of Existing and Potential interest in broadcasting United Nations anti-apartheid radio programmes and the extent to which audiences in selected urban centres in South Africa listen to them (Doc. A/45/162);

Noting the stated commitment of President de Klerk's Government to the reforms, the release of Nelson Mandela, the unbanning of political organizations, the lifting of the state of emergency and the initiation of talks with the ANC, speakers nevertheless drew attention to the host of discriminatory laws still in force and the failure to

release all political prisoners and facilitate the return of exiles. Some charged that the Government had not made adequate efforts to control the violence; others that it was employing delaying tactics to consolidate the power of the white minority. Most agreed that as minimum pre-conditions for negotiations established by the December 1989 Declaration had not been fully met, the international community should maintain existing sanctions, boycotts and other measures aimed at promoting change. Most speakers called for the maintenance of sanctions, urged greater efforts by the South African authorities to bring violence in black townships under control and called for a faster pace of reform urging the removal of all obstacles to negotiations cited in the Declaration.

On 19 December 1990, the General Assembly met to decide on eight resolutions that were tabled before it. The eight are: Res. 45/176A: International efforts to eradicate Apartheid (adopted by consensus); Res. 45/176B: Concerted and effective measures aimed at eradicating apartheid (116 in favour, 11 against and 19 abstentions); Res. 45/176C: Military collaboration with Israel (117 in favour, 2 against and 29 abstentions); Res. 45/176D Relations between Israel and South Africa (100 in favour, 28 against and 19 abstentions); Res. 45/176E: Programme of work of the Special Committee against Apartheid (134 in favour, none against and 14 abstentions); Res. 45/176F: Oil embargo against South Africa (126 in favour; 2 against and 19 abstentions); Res. 45/176G: Support for the work of the Commission against Apartheid in Sports (114 in favour, 1 against and 26 abstentions); Res. 45/176H: United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa (adopted without a vote).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY REAFFIRMS ITS COMMITMENT TO THE DECEMBER 1989 DECLARATION ON APARTHEID

At the initiative of the Special Committee and following negotiations with a large number of delegations a consensus resolution was adopted by the General Assembly entitled: "International efforts to eradicate apartheid". The text of the resolution which marks the fourth time since 1989 that the international community has expressed its unanimous opinion on the need for the speedy eradication of apartheid and on the ways to achieve that goal through negotiations draws primarily on the December 1989 Declaration.

In the resolution, the General Assembly expressed its conviction "that the total

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eradication of apartheid and the establishment, through broad-based negotiations, of a non-racial democracy based on a new constitutional order providing for universal equal suffrage under a non-racial voters' roll, could lead to a peaceful and lasting solution to the problems facing people in South Africa". Concerned at the continuing repression of the majority population in South Africa through the apartheid system the Assembly noted that "while some significant measures in the right direction have been undertaken by the South African authorities, continuing effort was needed to facilitate free political activity and to foster a climate fully conducive to negotiations". The ongoing talks between the ANC and the south African authorities were welcomed and the latter was called to fully implement the agreements reached so far. The recurring violence resulting largely from the persistence of apartheid and other factors, including actions of those opposed to the democratic transformation of South Africa, posed a threat to the negotiating process in the view of the Assembly.

The provisions of the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa and the need for their full and immediate implementation were stressed. "The process of change in South Africa remains at an early stage and further substantive progress needed to be made to promote the profound and irreversible change" was the conclusion reached by consensus.

The international community was called to "maintain the measures aimed at applying pressure on the South African régime to eradicate apartheid and to promote profound and irreversible changes, bearing in mind the objectives of the Declaration, namely, the speedy eradication of apartheid and the establishment of a united, democratic, non-racial South Africa". Governments and financial institutions were further called "to use concerted and effective measures aimed at applying pressure to ensure a speedy end to apartheid", as well as "to observe fully the mandatory arms embargo", and in that regard the Security Council was requested to monitor effectively the strict implementation of the arms embargo; the Assembly appealed to all States and institutions to render economic, legal, humanitarian and other assistance and increase support to the Front-Line States and the victims of apartheid inside and outside South Africa. The Secretary-General was requested by the General Assembly to ensure the

co-ordination of activities of the United Nations system in the implementation of the Declaration and report thereon to the Assembly at its 46th Session.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP TO MONITOR THE SUPPLY AND SHIPPING OF OIL AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS TO SOUTH AFRICA (IGG) REQUESTS GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO APPEAL TO MEMBER STATES TO STRICTLY ENFORCE THE OIL EMBARGO AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

Concerned about the growing number of alleged violations of the oil embargo and an apparent lack of co-operation from Member States who could exert decisive pressure on oil tankers that ship oil to South Africa, the IGG, in the its annual report (Doc. A/45/43) to the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly, requested the General Assembly to appeal to Member States to strictly enforce the oil embargo against South Africa.

Asserting that the most effective way of enforcing the oil embargo remained the Security Council's option of invoking Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, pending such a decision the IGG proposed a draft model law that Member States could use in dealing with cases of alleged violations of the embargo. The model law annexed to the report, covers oil and petroleum products and applies to their export from any port of the enacting State's territory, including free zones and off-shore areas. It also applies to oil sales, shipping or any other form of handling, such as refining and trading. The model law stipulates criminal penalties with provisions for heavy fines and prison terms and in addition, recommends seizure and/or confiscation of cargo.

The IGG also recommended to the General Assembly that it urge Member States to adopt the general principles of the model law, within the context and framework of their own legal practices. It urged the Assembly to request all States to co-operate fully with the IGG, particularly in its investigations into circumstances of alleged violations, or of port calls by ships capable of carrying oil or petroleum products. Finally it requested the Assembly to endorse its activities and to provide it with the necessary resources for continuing its activities.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID DEPLORES FINDINGS OF THE HARMS COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON ACTIVITIES OF SOUTH AFRICAN "DEATH SQUADS"

Following the publication, in South Africa on 13 November 1990 of the conclusions of the report of

the Harms Commission, on 23 November 1990, the Special Committee against Apartheid issued a statement deploring the Commission's findings. The Commission was set up to investigate the activities of State-controlled "death squads".

While acknowledging that the Civil Co-operation Bureau (CCB) of the South African Defence Force had "arrogated to itself the powers to try, to sentence and to punish persons knowing of allegations against them," and that it had put its own interest "above the public interest, or the interest of the State," the Commission, nevertheless, failed to recommend punitive action against the CCB nor against any persons responsible for its activities.

The Special Committee ascribed the Commission's findings in part to its restrictive and limited terms of reference, which prevented it from carrying out a thorough and comprehensive investigation, in particular as regards political acts of violence committed outside South Africa. The Special Committee also noted that the Commission had failed to subpoena high-level officials considered by many to be key witnesses. Furthermore members of the CCB were allowed to testify in disguise under assumed names and were not compelled to provide the Commission with important documents.

The Special Committee also regretted the fact that although it was announced on 31 July that all operations of the CCB were being terminated, no details had been given regarding the future of its personnel and assets.

II. ACTION BY INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY-GENERAL SAYS MANDELA "HAS THE LAST WORD"

Responding to a question from the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee, on the Commonwealth's criteria on the right time to lift sanctions against South Africa, the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Chief Emeka Anyaoku reportedly (The Times, London 12 December 1990) said that the Commonwealth would be guided by the opinion of Nelson Mandela and the ANC but also take into account what other genuine opponents of apartheid would be saying.

Chief Anyaoku also said that the removal of sanctions would not be recommended until and unless the dismantling of apartheid becomes irreversible. However, he added that he would not insist that majority rule had to be

in place, but would go as far as to say that the process towards majority rule should advance to such an extent that no one could say the following day "no we will go back to where we were before". He added that an end to the Group Areas and the Land Acts expected to take place in the South African parliamentary session in February 1991, would be an important development on the question of irreversibility.

With regard to what constitutes irreversibility, he said that for those outside South Africa, irreversibility must be seen as the point at which one cannot easily see the reintroduction of apartheid, whereas for those inside South Africa, Nelson Mandela and others concerned are undoubtedly in the best position to say at which point they can competently say that apartheid is on its way out.

EUROPEAN COUNCIL DECIDES TO LIFT BAN ON NEW INVESTMENTS TO SOUTH AFRICA AND TO RETAIN ITS SET OF MEASURES ADOPTED IN 1986 UNTIL SOUTH AFRICA REPEALS THE GROUPS AREAS ACT AND THE LAND ACTS

At an intensive meeting which many feared might result in the easing of the European Community's measures against South Africa, on 15 December 1990 the European Council issued a statement outlining its new policy towards South Africa. Following is the full text of the statement:

"The Community and its Member States have consistently followed developments in South Africa with the greatest attention and have given a favourable reception to the initiatives that have been taken to bring about the abolition of apartheid and the establishment of a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa. They have already expressed approval of the results of the talks between the Government and the ANC, in particular those of the Pretoria meeting in August, which opened the way to the negotiation of a new constitution.

They deplore the phase of serious violence through which South Africa is passing, which may endanger developments. They welcome, however, further indications serving to confirm that the process of change already begun is going ahead in the direction advocated by the Strasbourg European Council. They have decided to continue to encourage this process.

As of now, so as to contribute to combating unemployment and improving the economic and social situation in South Africa, and to encourage the movement under way aimed at the complete

abolition of apartheid, the European Council has decided to lift the ban on new investments.

At the same time, the Community and its Member States, with the objective of sending a clear signal of political support to the victims of apartheid, and intending to contribute to a new economic and social balance in South Africa, have agreed to strengthen the programme of positive measures and to adapt it to the requirements of the new situation, including requirements related to the return and resettlement of the exiles.

The Community and its Member States hope in this way to be able to contribute to the speeding up of the process underway through sending all the parties involved in the negotiation a concrete sign of support for the establishment of a new South Africa, united, non-racial and democratic, and capable of resuming the place it deserves in the international community."

Prior to the decision of the European Council Mr. Nelson Mandela addressed a letter to all EC Heads of Governments requesting them to postpone any decision on sanctions until early in the New Year. Following are excerpts of the letter:

"As we understand it, the European Community Summit scheduled for this month is likely to discuss the issue of sanctions against apartheid South Africa. It is for this reason that we write you this letter.

My humble request to you ... and to the Summit meeting is that you postpone any decision on this matter until early in the New Year. The Summit meeting could perhaps find it within its power to direct a later meeting of Foreign Ministers in February or March to consider this issue and take decisions..."

CONFERENCE OF ASSOCIATION OF WEST EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR ACTION AGAINST APARTHEID (AWEPAA) SAY SANCTIONS MUST BE MAINTAINED UNTIL APARTHEID IS ABOLISHED

At its conference held in Rome from 7-8 November 1990, AWEPPA concluded that apartheid must be abolished before peace and stability can come to Southern Africa, and that sanctions need to be maintained for the present.

AFRICA FUND COMMITTEE DECIDES TO BROADEN ITS APPEAL FOR SUPPORT TO THE FUND

At its Seventh Meeting of Senior Officials, held in Windhoek, Namibia from 11 to 14 December 1990, the AFRICA Fund Committee declared that

international pressure against Preoria should be continued until the changes in South Africa had become irreversible.

Meanwhile the Committee decided to intensify its efforts to mobilise more resources for the Fund through: a joint appeal by Heads of State or Government of the Committee members and the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity; personal visits by Committee Members to donor cuntries; organising a future Senior Officials Meeting in a Nordic country to publicise the Fund's work and encourage fresh pledges.

III. ACTION BY GOVERNMENTS

HUNGARY WITHDRAWS FROM THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID

Following criticism, for its decision to establish relations with South Africa, on 30 November 1990 the Permanent Representative of Hungary to the United Nations addressed a letter to the President of the General Assembly informing him about Hungary's decision to withdraw its membership from the Special Committee. Following are excerpts of the letter:

"... as a result of discussions that have taken place in the framework of the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid - during which the question of Hungary's membership on the Committee was raised - the Republic of Hungary has decided to withdraw from that Committee.

... Hungary has always rejected all forms of discrimination based on race, colour, ethnic or national origin. The Hungarian Government has repeatedly stated its condemnation of institutionalized State racism of apartheid in South Africa. .. Hungary joined the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid as one of the founding members and considers that the Committee played thus far an important role in mobilizing the international community against the evil of apartheid.

However, the world we live in today has changed greatly from the one we knew hardly a year ago. Since early this year a number of positive developments took place in South Africa itself, which hold the promise of a new era in that region of the world. Hungary believes that the process of change in moving away from apartheid toward a new political system deserves and requires international support. Therefore, it wishes, within its modest means, to encourage through dialogue all steps aiming at the complete

dismantling of apartheid by peaceful means...".

VI. ACTION BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS)

TWELVE NGOS TESTIFY BEFORE THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE'S HEARINGS ON WHETHER OR NOT SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA SHOULD BE MAINTAINED

At a two-day (26 to 27 November 1990) meeting of the Special Political Committee on Hearings on whether or not sanctions should be maintained, twelve NGOs testified expressing differing views on the matter. The Hearings were convened at the request of the NGOs.

The twelve NGOs that participated in the Hearings include: the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU); the Interfaith Centre on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR); the Association of Concerned Taxpayers; the National Center for Public Policy Research; the Progressive Librarians Guild; the Heritage Foundation; the Jefferson Education Foundation; the American-South African People's Friendship Association; the New African People's Organization; the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); the South African-Azanian Student Movement and; the Afrikan Echoes.

Citing several issues that the South African Government had to resolve (such as the amendment of the Labour Relations Amendment as proposed by the two major trade unions in the country; improving the situation of farm workers; repealing the Population Registration Act; containing the growing violence in the country and; the repatriation of political refugees) before one could say they have established the climate conducive to peaceful negotiations, the representative of the ICFTU, Ms. Beatrice Von Roemer, concluded that the easing of international pressure on the South African regime at present would encourage the delaying tactics already in evidence. Similar views were expressed by the representatives of the ICCR, the Progressive Librarians Guild, the American-South African Peoples' Friendship Association, the New African People's Organizations, the NAACP, the South African-Azanian Student Movement and the Afrikan Echoes.

Some of the other organizations were of the view that South Africa had already done a lot towards the dismantling of apartheid and therefore lifting economic sanctions would help the international community lead South Africa to a multi-racial, democratic future by promoting stability. They

contended that lifting sanctions while strengthening the position of reformers against those opposed to change, would also contribute to alleviating the combined problem of unemployment and underemployment figures among South Africa's black majority.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF DREW UNIVERSITY TOUGHENS STANCE ON SOUTH AFRICA INVESTMENTS

In a news release issued recently, the Board of Trustees of Drew University approved one of the strongest positions, of any institution in the United States, against apartheid in South Africa. Like most universities in the country, Drew University had already sold off its stock in companies investing directly in South Africa. Its new measure entails extending its policy to companies with indirect investments in that country, recognizing that both forms of investment can be equally profitable and supportive of the continuing system of apartheid.

Since 1987 Drew's investment policy had excluded corporations doing business in South Africa from the stock portfolio. It would now also exclude corporations which have indirect investments in that country through licensing arrangements, loans or other financial agreements with companies that operate in South Africa. However, Drew will continue holding stock in a few companies that are health-related or whose level of indirect investment in South Africa may be in dispute.

Drew's new policy came as a result of concerted efforts by the Drew Anti-Apartheid Movement (DAAM), students faculty, staff, the University Senate and the Board of Trustees' Social Responsibility Committee.

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL POLICY CONTINUES TO RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE CONSEQUENCES FOR AN INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF) LOAN TO SOUTH AFRICA

In a note dated 2 November 1990, the Center for International Policy outlined its recent activities aimed at raising public awareness of the potential for an International Monetary Fund loan to South Africa that would undermine sanctions and strengthen apartheid, first, on 26 September 1990 members of the organization were interviewed on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered" along with Assistant Secretary of State Herman H. Cohen.

Then, on 5 October 1990, they published an update warning of a key strategy meeting between the IMF and the South African authorities

on 12 October 1990. At the Center's suggestion House Majority Whip Representative William Gray and thirty-five other members of the House (United States Congress), then wrote to Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady on October 22 1990 urging him against an IMF loan to South Africa. Following are excerpts of the letter:

"As Members of Congress who have been steadfastly concerned about, and supportive of South Africa's peaceful transition to a non-racial democracy, we take strong exception to Assistant Secretary of State Herman Cohen's remark in his September 26th National Public Radio interview, that the Administration "would not have any political objections" to a South African request for a loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Aside from whether or not such a request would meet the requirements of the Gramm Amendment to the 1983 Bretton Woods Agreements Act, the process of peaceful change toward dismantling the apartheid system and installing a democratic, non-racial form of government has not yet reached the stage of "irreversibility" notwithstanding President Bush's pronouncement in welcoming President F.W. de Klerk to the White House...

In considering any request by South Africa for an IMF loan it would be appropriate for the Administration to take into account the broader context of the conditionalities outlined in the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act (CAAA) as well as the socio-economic criteria laid out in the Gramm Amendment which calls on the United States Executive Director to the IMF to oppose an IMF loan to "any country that practices apartheid"...

COMMITTEE TO PROTECT JOURNALISTS SENDS TELEX TO PRESIDENT F.W. DE KLERK ON THE CASE AGAINST THE WEEKLY MAIL AND VRYE WEEKBLAD.

On 5 December 1990, the Executive Director of the Committee to Protect Journalists sent a telex to President F.W. de Klerk, requesting his government to take steps to see to it that the defamation case against the Weekly Mail and Vrye Weekblad is reconsidered. Following are excerpts of the letter:

"According to our information, Lieutenant General Lothas P. Neethling brought these suits against the Weeklies in December 1989 for articles in November and December alleging that he supplied poison from the South African forensics laboratory, which he heads, to a police

officer who claims to have been involved in the death squad activities within the police department. We understand that the South African Government is financing Lieutenant General Neethling's legal actions".

The Committee has long been concerned about restraints on and actions against press freedom in South Africa... While we are not challenging the right of individuals to bring legitimate grievances before the courts, we fear that these defamation cases represent yet another strategy to intimidate the press and stifle reporting on sensitive issues... We respectfully request that your Government take steps to see that the defamation case against the Weekly Mail and Vrye Weekblad is reconsidered."

V. ACTION BY ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENTS

BRITISH ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENT (BAAM) RESOLVES TO INTENSIFY ITS SANCTIONS POLICY

At its annual conference held in Sheffield during the weekend of 24 November 1990, the BAAM resolved to intensify its sanctions policy until the ANC and the United Nations judged that necessary "profound and irreversible" change had taken place in South Africa.

In this connection, the BAAM decided to strengthen its sanctions through focussing on gold, tourism, the oil embargo and consumer boycotts. In line with this new policy the BAAM recently sent letters to two of the country's leading jewellers, Argos and Easthorpe urging them to follow Ratners' example and phase out jewellery made from South African gold. In addition to the letters BAAM campaigners staged demonstrations outside jewellers throughout the country urging them to support the campaign. Ratners was successfully targeted by the End Loans to South Africa (ELTSA).

LIAISON GROUP OF NATIONAL ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENTS IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY SENDS "MEMORANDUM" TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (EC)

Following the meeting held in Rome from 22 to 23 September 1990, the Liaison Group of National Anti-Apartheid Movements in the countries of the European Community sent an eight-page "memorandum" to the Council of Ministers of the European Community.

The memorandum touched on issues such as: a united non-racial and democratic South Africa; violence in South Africa; ending political repression; maintenance of

sanctions and other "restrictive" measures; EC representation in South Africa; EC aid to South Africa and; Namibia and the Front-line States.

On the issue of a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa, while welcoming the declaration by the European Council in Dublin on 26 June 1990 that "the objective of the European Community and its Member States is the complete dismantlement of the apartheid system, by peaceful means and without delay, and its replacement by a united, non-racial and democratic state in which all people shall enjoy common and equal citizenship and where respect for universally recognized human rights is guaranteed", the Liaison Group expressed concern at the EC's attempts to water down the key elements of the United Nations Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa, during the resumed session of the General Assembly in September 1990.

Therefore, the Liaison Group, appealed to the Council of Ministers to actively promote peace by using all its influence with the South African Government so that it takes necessary steps to: restructure the police to ensure democratic accountability; disband the KwaZulu police; ensure the prosecution of those responsible for crimes such as the "war lords" and; establish an independent judicial enquiry to investigate the causes of violence and allegations of the role of elements within the police and security forces in instigating the violence.

On ending political repression, the Liaison Group urged the Council of Ministers to intervene immediately to secure the release of all those detained without trial and to liaise with human rights organizations, such as the Human Rights Commission to ensure that the South African régime strictly implements the agreements entered into at Groote Schuur and Pretoria.

With regard to the maintenance of sanctions, the Liaison Group urged the Council of Ministers to desist from any unilateral relaxation of sanctions until the ANC and the broader mass democratic movement and the United Nations have determined that change has been of such profound and irreversible character that the time is right for any relaxation or lifting of sanctions. The Group also expressed its total opposition to any moves by the Community to establish an official mission in South Africa.

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID (PNCA) MARKS HUMAN RIGHTS DAY WITH SYMPOSIUM ON APARTHEID

The Philippine National Committee against Apartheid (PNCA) marked Human Rights Day (10 December 1990) with a symposium on apartheid. The symposium held at Miriam College in Quezon City was attended by more than 200 students of the International Studies Department of Miriam College. It was addressed by Mr. Sedigh Suleiman, Chargé d'Affaires of the Libyan Embassy in Manila; Mr.s Leonarda Camacho, President of the Philippine National Committee against Apartheid and; Mr. Luis V. Torres, National Information Officer of the United Nations Information Centre.

The symposium centered around recent developments in the southern African region and prospects for abolishing apartheid in South Africa. Two United Nations films were shown: "Namibia Independence (Elections)" and "Apartheid: 20th Century Slavery".

AKTIEKOMITEE ZUIDELIJK (AKZA) OTHERWISE ACTION COMMITTEE ON SOUTHERN AFRICA PROPOSES "RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REFLECTION AND ACTION"

Following the launching in early 1990 of its public awareness campaign aimed at promoting the United Nations Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa as a yardstick with which the international community could evaluate President de Klerk's reform policy and the fast changing developments in South Africa, on 1 December 1990, AKZA held a conference at Louvain, Belgium. The conference whose theme was "Christians against apartheid: Christians for a new South Africa," was entitled "Conference for a New and Democratic South Africa".

The objective of the conference was to evaluate recent developments in South Africa, along the lines of the United Nations Declaration and the July 1990 Report of the Secretary-General on Implementation of the Declaration. At its conclusion the Conference adopted a memorandum called "Recommendations for reflection and action". In the memorandum participants declared that the most convenient and internationally accepted tool for evaluating recent changes in South Africa was the United Nations Declaration; welcomed certain measures adopted by the de Klerk Government, notably the unbanning of political organizations, the lifting of the state of emergency, the release of some political prisoners, including Mr. Nelson Mandela, and the preliminary talks that have

been held between the ANC and the South African Government.

Participants also adopted several measures to be taken by the South African Government. These included that the Government: make sure that security forces become a neutral agent in restoring peace; set up an independent board of inquiry to monitor the operations of the Defence Force and the South African police, and to investigate operations by the Civil Co-operation Bureau in countries such as Zimbabwe, France, the United Kingdom and Belgium; curb the activities of the white extremists.

In addition, participants also made a call on public opinion to remain cautious about the pace and scope of change in South Africa. They called upon the Belgian Government to maintain restrictive measures until: a constituent assembly, elected on the basis of universal suffrage is constituted; sovereign power is removed from the existing apartheid legislative structures and vested in the Constituent Assembly or another agreed interim structure; the white minority cannot legally reverse or veto the process of change through the present unrepresentative legislative structures.

VI. SPECIAL FEATURE

SOUTH AFRICAN CHURCH LEADERS CONFESS THEIR MUTUAL COMPLICITY IN THE SIN OF APARTHEID AND CALL FOR AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

At its historic meeting held at Rustenburg from 5 to 9 November 1990, the National Conference of Church Leaders in South Africa confessed their mutual complicity in the sin of apartheid and called for affirmative action to redress the imbalances of decades of racial injustice. The conference was attended by 230 representatives of 80 denominations and 40 organizations.

The conference whose objective was to find a common ground in the theological and socio-political complexities facing South Africa culminated in the adoption of a declaration called the Rustenburg Declaration. Participants stunned the world by publicly acknowledging their "heretical part" in the policy of apartheid. Following are excerpts of the Declaration:

"As representatives of the Christian Church in South Africa, we recognize that the South African situation owes much to the content of western colonialism, to the stifling of conscience by inherited social attitudes which blind communities to the wrong they

reflect and to a weakness common to the world-wide church in dealing with social evil. Now, however, we confess our sin and acknowledge our heretical part in the policy of apartheid, which has led to such extreme suffering for so many in our land. We denounce apartheid, in its intention, the implementation and its consequences, as an evil policy ... We remember with sorrow the victims of apartheid who have suffered and continue to suffer humiliation, dispossession and death ... We know that without genuine repentance and practical restitution we do not appropriate God's forgiveness and that without justice true reconciliation between people is impossible ..."

We therefore confess that we have in different ways practiced, supported, permitted or refused to resist apartheid... Those of us who have perpetuated and benefitted from apartheid are guilty of a colonial arrogance toward black culture. We have allowed State institutions to do the sinning for us... Those of us who are the victims of apartheid acknowledge our own contribution to the failure of the Church. While colonialism and oppression have damaged our self-esteem and eroded the fibres of "ubuntu" (humanness) which held our communities together, we acknowledge that many of us have responded with timidity and fear, failing to challenge our oppression... Those of us who are male confess that we have often disregarded the human dignity of women and ignored the sexism of many of our church, social, political, economic and family structures... We confess that we have prevented youth from full participation in the life of the Church and have ignored the issues facing the youth...

Therefore in these and other ways, all the representatives at this Conference confess that we have often let the world rather than the Gospel mold us and we have served our selfish interests rather than Christ. With a broken and contrite spirit we ask the forgiveness of God and our fellow South Africans. We call upon the members of our churches to make this confession their own. We call upon the Government of South Africa to join us in a public confession of guilt and a statement of repentance for wrongs perpetrated over the years. ...

To the Church of Jesus Christ in South Africa, we address an appeal to adopt our confession and pledge itself to restitution. ... To the Nation we declare the compelling necessity for all to renounce and turn from

personal, economic, social and political sin, most especially the sin of racism in both our souls and our structures. ... To political leaders, we express appreciation for the progress made thus far and we address an appeal that you meet urgently to negotiate a new and just order for our country. We call on the Government to repeal as a matter of urgency all apartheid laws, such as the Land Act, the Group Areas Act, the Population Registration Act, Homelands, Black Local Authorities, Black Education and the Internal Security Acts. We also call for the granting of unconditional indemnity to political exiles, the immediate release of all political prisoners and the return of property confiscated from previously banned organizations...

We affirm and highlight the following: After decades of oppression, the removal of discriminatory laws will have to be accompanied by affirmative acts of restitution in the fields of health care, psychological healing, education, housing employment, economic infrastructure, and especially land ownership... We call for the negotiation of a new constitution by a body clearly and fully representative of all South Africans..."

On the final day of the conference, as the Rustenburg Declaration was being finalized, the Nedercuitse Gerefarmeerde Kerk (NGK), the biggest white Dutch Reformed Church (DRF) in the country and to which 90 per cent of all cabinet ministers and 70 per cent of all parliamentarians reportedly belong, issued a statement to the press distancing itself from some of the political trends of the Declaration. They said that they had, for example, problems with the call for a constituent assembly. However, in an unexpected move, they went further than they had done before in confessing to contributing to the hardships suffered by South African black people by supporting the apartheid system.

NEWS IN BRIEF

NORWAY

Following a proposal from its special commission on apartheid, on 9 December 1990, the International Olympic Committee, at its meeting held in Lillerhammer, Norway, announced that it would be sending a five-member delegation to formally meet with South African political and sports leaders in April 1991, in Johannesburg. This will be the first official contact between the IOC and South Africa since South Africa was expelled from the

IOC in 1970 because of its policy of apartheid. However this does not mean that there will be any shift from the IOC's basic premise that apartheid must end before South Africa is re-admitted to the IOC.

SWITZERLAND

At its meeting held in Geneva sometime in September 1990, the World Bridge Federation declared that a vote would be taken on South Africa's return to full active membership if and when the country is re-admitted to the Olympic movement.

DELETIONS FROM THE REGISTER OF SPORTS CONTACTS WITH SOUTH AFRICA

The Special Committee against Apartheid has decided to delete the following names of sportsmen from the Register of Sports Contacts with South Africa. The sportsmen concerned have pledged not to compete in any sports events in South Africa as long as the system of apartheid prevails. The list consists of names deleted in November and December 1990.

Darren Cahill, tennis player, Australia

John Fitzgerald, tennis player, Australia

Mark Kratzman, tennis player, Australia

Wally Masus, tennis player, Australia

Laurie Warder, tennis player Australia

Amos Mansdorf, tennis player, Israel

Jorge Lozano, tennis player, Mexico

Juan Avendano, tennis player, Spain

Simon Brown, golfer, United Kingdom

Stuart Little, golfer, United Kingdom

Paul Annacone, tennis player, USA

Jay Berger, tennis player, USA

Kevin Curren, tennis player, USA

Scott Davis, tennis player, USA

Luke Jensen, tennis player, USA

Kelly Jones, tennis player, USA

David Pate, tennis player, USA

Todd Witsken, tennis player, USA

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID FOR 1991

The Special Committee approved the following programme of work (time and venue: tentative).

A. Conferences and Seminars organized by the Special Committee

Mission of consultations with prominent lawyers and leaders of Human Rights Associations from South Africa in co-operation with Committee of Trustees of United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa, 28 February.

Second Symposium on the cultural and academic links with South Africa, Los Angeles, USA, April/May 1991.

Seminar of South American parliamentarians for the implementation of the UN Declaration on Apartheid, Santiago, Chile, Spring 1991.

Consultations with non-governmental organizations and anti-apartheid movements, Geneva, September 1991.

Round-table of journalists on the implementation of the UN Declaration on Apartheid, New York, July 1991.

B. Conferences and seminars co-sponsored by the Special Committee

Conference of Eastern European parliamentarians on action against apartheid (in co-operation with AWEPAA), Prague, Czechoslovakia, June 1991

Conference on educational needs of victims of apartheid in South Africa (in co-operation with UNESCO and the Advisory Committee of UNETPSA), Paris, France, Summer 1991.

Consultative meeting with Western parliamentarians (in co-operation with the African-American Institute) Washington, D.C., Spring 1991.

Round-table on economic issues relating to the establishment of a non-racial, democratic South Africa, September 1991.

Courtesy of Centre against Apartheid